News release

Chief Executive to leave the Met Office

21 April 2005

David Rogers, Chief Executive of the Met Office, has today announced his intention to step down from his post in the next few months.

In a personal message to staff he said:

- "As many of you know, I have recently married. This has brought a change in my domestic circumstances which has led me to reconsider my personal and professional future.
- After much soul-searching, I have reached the conclusion that I no longer see my long-term future being with the Met Office.
- But I do not plan to leave just yet. There is much work to be done in finalising our strategy and corporate plan, and ensuring that the Met Office is properly equipped and configured to deliver these. My wish is to lead this work personally, and to bequeath to my successor a strong and vibrant organisation, with a clear vision, and commitment to make a difference to people's lives.
- The Met Office is truly a world-leading organisation and centre of excellence in every sense of the word. It has been and remains an honour and a privilege to lead you."

It is currently envisaged that David will leave the Met Office in September, but a precise date has yet to be agreed.

Ian Andrews, 2nd Permanent Under Secretary at the MOD and chief adviser to Ministers on Met Office matters commented:

"I am very disappointed by David's decision to leave office somewhat earlier than expected. He has brought great energy and clarity of vision to the Met Office, and made a big impact even in his short time to date. But I understand the personal reasons why he wishes to leave, and welcome his intention to remain in post for a while yet."

MOD is making the necessary arrangements to select a successor.

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